

✓ A  
FLAGELLATION

FOR A CERTAIN  
APOTHECARY:

With a full REFUTATION of the numerous ABSURDITIES lately publish'd in a Pamphlet,

ENTITLED, AN  
E S S A Y

On the CURE of the  
VENEREAL GONORRHÆA,  
In a NEW METHOD;

Shewing how to relieve the most painful  
Symptoms in a few Hours.

IN A  
LETTER to the AUTHOR:

WITH AN  
ADDRESS to the respectable Body of  
APOTHECARIES.

—*fas est & ab hoste doceri.*

The SECOND EDITION, with ADDITIONS.

L O N D O N:

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# PLANTATION

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A D D R E S S

T O T H E  
Respectable Body of Apothecaries.

GENTLEMEN,

**T**HE author sensible that some passages in this performance may probably be understood in too extensive a sense, and may seem to affect the gentlemen of the profession of pharmacy in general, thinks it incumbent on him to explain his meaning, and to assure them, that those censorious expressions alluded to, are levelled only at those individuals who prostitute their profession with lucrative, and  
sordid



fordid views, and obtain business in a mean surreptitious way; the author heated with indignation at such proceedings, did not recollect that those angry expressions should have been restricted within certain limitations, to prevent them from being receiv'd as general abuse, and to hinder them from wounding a profession in itself respectable, and in which there are numbers of very valuable men, who deservedly possess the good opinion of society at large. The author presumes, that this acknowledgment will restore him to the favourable opinion of those gentlemen whom he may have inadvertently offended, on that presumption he sincerely asks their excuse.





TO

Mr. E - - - s,

PHARMACOPOLIST and AUTHOR.

S I R,



WHEN a man of an obscure character, and whose proper walk in life, is to administer to physick in the subservient capacity of an apothecary; so far forgets himself, as to assume a degree of importance incompatible with his situation, and offers instruction to the world in a science to which he is the

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lowest

lowest instrument; such mischievous presumption must instantly give an alarm to all the real friends of humanity, as well as every one who feels for the dignity of physick: it is not enough that a book is in the highest degree futile, and despicable and cram'd with self evident absurdities; such is the infatuation of the natives of this country for something *new*, that their ears and mouths are equally open, to swallow the delusive promises, as well as pernicious mixtures, of every one who chuses to impose on their credulity, whether it be pill, bolus, or potion, if it carries but the mark of novelty, the cullibility of Englishmen will find stomach for it all. This is a fact so well known, and of such infinite importance to the retailers of physick, that they never doubt of encouragement for the sale of a medicine, that has been properly usher'd in by a well fabricated advertisement, or the more fashionable mode of a pamphlet; both deservedly scorned by men of liberal principles, and only practised

practised by the needy, who sacrifice reputation to interest: the trick of a pamphlet on the clap, is of late become so common a *snare* to *catch* business, that it is now beginning to be seen through, and to lose its intended effect: to this has been owing that variety of destructive and opposite practice, gleaned from authors whose opinions have been long obsolete, and introduced as *new* by those who prey on the follies of mankind, and raise themselves to a temporary fame by an affectation of singularity, and the vanity of striking out something new. Numerous is the tribe of these pretenders, and not inconsiderable their profits; those who might be properly styled princes of physick, are now obliged to give place to those little paltry innovators and drudges, who have been properly denominated the haberdashers of medicine.

The many ingenious enquiries, the elaborate attempts to elucidate obscure,

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and



and ambiguous appearances, by the most accurate and attentive examinations; are now render'd simple and plain, by the happy appearance of a pamphlet of a few pages; the author of which invaluable work, has hitherto figured away in the splendid character of a vender of drugs. What shall we say to the modesty of this man, when we are informed, that this pithy performance of forty pages is to be purchased at the moderate price of half a crown; and how shall we sufficiently praise his humanity and disinterestedness, at having without reserve imparted to the public ear, the composition of medicines with which he has cured claps more effectually and expeditiously than any one he ever spoke with, heard, or read of.

*This he affirms, and damned be he that doubts.*

But alas, how every feeling heart must bleed to think, that a profession which administers so eligible a cure for the most vexatious diseases, by the  
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hands of its favour'd Mr. E—, should abound with members, who from a true relish for elegance and purity in writing, and thirst for medical improvement, impatiently pant for a perusal of this (tho' not great) yet glorious work; should have been so neglected by the ungrateful world, as to be unable to spare half a crown for the purchase; for your sakes therefore, who are in this unhappy (tho' not singular predicament,) I will undertake to abridge this Book, replete with *truth*, and *useful information*, and give you the substantial part, abstracted from its literary elegance. And you, ye Bucks, whose inclinations point at every female votary of Venus, and who are only restrained from running at all, by the melancholy consideration of *running* after all, be ye no less attentive, than rejoiced, at the removal of this obstacle to your amorous enjoyments; don't put on the laugh of contempt, but the laugh of ecstacy, when I inform you, that the best, and most speedy cure for a clap, is a few drops

drops of Bals. Copaiv. and Spirit of lavender, with an injection of vitriol and water; and for this you have the weighty authority of the great Mr. E—; but who is this Mr. E— I hear you ask, we never before even heard of his name; of that gentleman I am not so well able to inform you, but Mr. Bladon who has printed his book, will probably give you better information on that head, than any body else is able to do; but here let me put a stop to this career of levity; for as I have some serious remarks to make on this half crown production, it will be expected that they are seriously urged.

When the first edition of this curious book was put into my hand, its miserable English, false anatomy, and general futility, excited indignation, and surprize; but on a farther perusal, indignation and surprize gave way to compassion, and I could not avoid feeling



ing for the puerile weakness of the author.

The book being of too feeble a nature to engage the attention of the medical world, was suffered to sleep in silence; and as a proof how such generosity has been abused, we have the defective, spurious brat, regenerated with additions; tho' entirely convinced of the necessity of additions to make it in any degree bearable, yet it was not without astonishment that I beheld it reproduced; before I undertook the unwelcome task of examination into its new state, I had determined, if there was any part of the additions that was not equally execrable with the first publication, that my humanity should operate in its favour, and I would concur with the rest of my brethren, in consigning it to oblivion; but the book, tho' increased in size, I find is not so in value; I therefore reluctantly enter into a criticism on this diminutive child of the press, that contains  
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the effence and quintessence, of all venerable knowledge in the compass of forty pages.

You begin with observing, that it is the general custom of writers to give some account of the origin of any disease on which they are about to treat; but confessing yourself unable to ascertain the exact time when Gonorrhæa's first made their appearance, it being a circumstance that has puzzled the brain of so many much more ingenious men than yourself (and you might have added, had they ascertained the exact time, it would have been merely a circumstance; but a circumstance of not the least importance so far as relates to the cure) you therefore refer us to Boerhaave, Astruc and Turner: now this was really a modest beginning, and how much to be lamented, that this thought did not strike you when you publish'd your first edition, and instead of giving us a most vile, mutilated, and ridiculous account of the anatomy  
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of the penis, and parts concerned in a gonorrhæa, (which anatomical business was certainly unnecessary) you had refer'd us to some performance of establish'd reputation, to make us acquainted with those parts, which, I suppose, Mr. E— imagined that he alone had a sufficient knowledge of, as he is the only man who thoroughly understands the nature of the venereal poison; it is natural to suppose the same vanity might operate with respect to each: but, alas, my literary pharmaceutick friend, I very much fear, that this immaculate pamphlet of yours, will very seldom have the honour of a reference, from any one who wishes to possess himself of a knowledge of the venereal disease, or the method of treating it with propriety.

You have expressed some degree of surprize, that a disease, which has existed for such a length of time, and been treated on such a tedious unavailing plan, by many ingenious practitioners,

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should not have receiv'd some new lights, and the treatment of it enriched by discoveries; you in the plentitude of your sagacity, are willing to attribute it to that blind submission we pay to those who have already wrote on that subject; and as you, I suppose, would insinuate in a mistaken manner, and upon fallacious principles; pardon me, Sir, when I express a wish that the reverse of this was not the case, those rich and friendly sources, which furnish'd us with truth and useful knowledge, are now neglected for scepticism and quackery; and instead of that blind obedience which when carried too far was certainly reprehensible, we have now plunged too deeply into the opposite extreme, to extricate ourselves without great difficulty: give me leave to offer a conjecture on this subject, that I am inclined to think will come nearer the mark. The venereal disease is by far the most destructive, if improperly treated, of any with which human nature has been cursed; and this  
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is pretty generally understood by the bulk of the people; whether from a desire of secreting a disease that has always been regarded as scandalous; or from a persuasion that the proper treatment of it, is a species of knowledge apart from the common circle of physick, those who have been unfortunately amorous, are extremely backward in confessing their situation to men of the first characters in the profession; the consequence of this is, they generally apply for assistance to those, whose rank in life is such, as to compell them to obey every injunction of secrecy, or any thing else that the patient shall please to command; so that he has nothing to dread from the foolish prejudices of the world, by discovering his misfortunes to them; and tho' in every other part of physick a man's character may have been a long time sunk, yet he may still have credit for a profound judgment in Venereal matters, and the efficacy of particular medicines, which he is the sole discoverer of taken into

serious belief; and to this is owing that inattention, which men who are best qualified to rectify mistakes, and to produce amendment, have long manifested for a branch of business, that is almost monopolized by the meanest people in the profession.

When you say Surgeons whose dependance is solely on their profession, will be cautious of introducing innovations, being apprehensive lest they should not succeed; I answer, no surgeon is justifiable in introducing any new method of practice but on reasonable grounds; and, I believe, I may safely leave it to the judgment of every one of your readers, whether your hot stimulating balsam, and styptick injections are likely to abate inflammation, or correct acrimony. Neither is it true, that Gonorrhæas have been consider'd by the faculty as in general very difficult of cure; it is not as you have asserted, the most skilful surgeons that find themselves defeated by a common  
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gonorrhæa, leading it on for months, and at last ending in a gleet; these consequences may attend the practice of those who shake the constitutions of their patients with draftick purges, as well as those who counteract the intention of nature in recent claps, by giving a sudden check to the matter with astringent injections, and locking it up, to the infinite hazard of the parts concerned in the disease, or translating it elsewhere; for tho' you may treat this with an affectation of contempt, nothing can be more reasonable than these ideas, and few things so strongly verified by observation, and experience. You yourself admit, that the discharge may be stopt by some kind of injections for the space of thirty or forty hours and then will return: I would ask you, Sir, upon this occasion, whether the discharge does not retire to some part from whence it cannot get an immediate regrefs; and if the testicles and parts adjacent are found to swell upon such stoppage, and those  
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symptoms appeased on the return of the running; whether it is not most reasonable to suppose, that the matter had been lodged there during its absence from the urethra. You may ask by what *unknown* vessels this running is to pass, every man who has a competent knowledge of the animal œconomy, and is likewise apprized of the subtlety of the venereal virus, will immediately answer, that the same channel that admits of the passage of the semen, may likewise admit the running to pass on to the testicles, and produce those painful, and untractable symptoms, which are so formidable both to the surgeon, and to the patient, and which are more frequently known to follow the use of astringent injections than from any other cause. You have in one or two places made a feeble effort to vent your spleen at Mr. Bayford, in the form of a sarcasm, but have not in the least invalidated any thing that gentleman has advanced. His assertion that the lymphatic glands  
of

of the groin are liable to swell upon the sudden stoppage of a gonorrhæa, and that these glands in general will subside when a plentiful discharge is again brought on, is a truth of too stubborn a nature to be controverted; tho' this rule is not absolutely without exceptions; for in some very sanguine constitutions, a swelling is no sooner felt than a hot hasty abscess begins to form, and which cannot be controul'd either by internal medicines, or external applications; tho' this is but seldom the case; and when you sneeringly infer from this doctrine of his, that he is possessed of some curious medicine, that will produce the discharge at pleasure, you make a remark to the full as curious as this imaginary medicine, as well as a confession of your total ignorance of the nature of this disease; for it is sufficiently known to every experienced surgeon, that bleeding, with gentle purges, and emollient injections thrown into the urethra, with the general antiphlogistic regimen, will produce

duce this event nine times out of ten. Mr. Bayford relates a case of a neglected gonorrhæa, that in about six weeks disappear'd, and that the tonsils were attacked about four months afterwards with venereal sores: finding this to be a case in point, and of the strongest kind, you have been at some pains to evade it, and your conclusion is at least equal to any other part of your book: you admit not the supposition of the degeneracy, but suppose that he might have been infected in the interim; or your more favourite conjecture is, that of a chancre behind the glans penis, so small as to escape notice, and healing before any discovery had been made of its existence, by degrees tainted the habit. As to the first supposition, it is nothing but begging the question against good presumptive proof to the contrary; and as to the chancre, the idea is arbitrary and absurd. I really pity you when I find you straining your imagination, to find out something to support your argument, and after all  
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subverting your own doctrine, by contradicting yourself; for you have laid it down in the former part of your book as an established fact, that no chancre will heal without the assistance of mercury. But tho' I do not admit that a chancre may pass off without being discovered; yet it may, perhaps be charity to inform you, that a pocky chancre, and a gonorrhæal excoriation (a distinction of your own) will both dry up by the use of styptick applications, without the exhibition of mercury, tho' you are willing to admit of it only in the latter.

Notwithstanding you are pleased to assure us, that if we follow your infallible method, we shall soon be convinced of the simplicity of the disease, and the ease and speediness of the cure; I can testify from experience, the inutility and mischievous consequences of your medicines; and particularly the ærug æris with the spir. falis ammon. which in one instance, effected nothing

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but a temporary suppression of the discharge at the expence of much pain and inflammation; and in another, produced a violent strangury with hæmorrhage, which was with difficulty remov'd by phlebotomy, confinement, plentiful diluents, &c. and with respect to the drops, they are frequently in the greatest degree injurious to the bowels; and I am informed by a surgeon of character who has made use of them, that purging is not only the frequent concomitant of this medicine; but that it is to be regarded as its most favourable operation, for when they do not find a free passage by the intestines, it is necessary to give manna with them to produce that effect, otherwise a fever and eruption will ensue. This is looking on your specific in the most favourable point of view, and even here every one will object to the severity of it, not to speak of its detestable taste, which to the palates of some people is intolerable.

You

You have I observe, embraced the fashionable opinion (for there are fashions in physick as well as in dress, and sometimes equally extravagant) that a clap and a pox are not the same in their nature, but diseases *suorum generum*; and distinct from each other. We will now attend a little to those arguments which you bring in support of your opinion, and which you doubtless look on as decisive. The first is, that no pox was ever cured without mercury, and you are able to produce many claps that have been cured without a single grain; this I most religiously believe, and therefore, shall readily admit; but this certainly does not prove enough for your purpose, for the whole force of this argument may be overthrown by observing, that the venereal poison while local has a free drain to run itself off; and therefore, with the assistance of diet, and other particulars, it may be prevented from invading the mass of blood, and with time and care

its acrid and poisonous quality may become meliorated, and the discharge if any remains, may be safely attack'd with astringents, &c. without any fear of driving the poison into the constitution, which medicines, if made use of at the first accession of a gonorrhœa, before it had arrived at the above-mentioned stage, would have locked up the matter, promoted absorption, and induced a pox, and in this kind of reasoning I am justified by analogy; how many people have been affected with short transitory rigors, which have vanish'd without the assistance of medicine, or any caution in diet; while an ague, which is of the same nature, tho' in a greater degree, has remain'd obstinate, and inflexible, till overcome by a plentiful use of the bark: we know there are medicines that may be administered within certain limits, and with certain regulations, that if too largely increased in quantity, or given indiscriminately, would act as poisons; why may we not apply this reasoning



ing to the disease in question; and if that is admitted, may we not observe, that hemlock and mercury when given in proper quantities, will act powerfully in the removal of diseases, but may become fatal by too large a dose; yet the medicine so opposite in its effects as to be either curative, or destructive, according as it is administer'd, is nevertheless the same medicine in its nature; is it then at all surprizing, that the gonorrhæa and confirmed lues should be one and the same disease because they produce different effects, according to their different degrees of virulency and infection, and frequently require a different treatment: but notwithstanding, I may be contradicted, yet I am hardy enough to affirm, that many claps that have been tediously cured with medicines in which mercury bore no part, would have been much more speedily cured with it, I have often known claps that have resisted a great many other things, yield in the kindest manner to an injection of melted mercurial unction.

unction. Your idea that the venereal particles of matter in a gonorrhæa differ in nature, quality, and figure, from those of a pox is certainly new, and an opinion that ought to have been founded on something better than meer whim, or wild conjecture, and yet there is not the least shadow of proof, or even the event of one single experiment, to make it in any degree probable. The thought of animalculæ is extremely pleasant, but I am sorry you should think such a supposition at all plausible; or did you mean to compare them with those animalculæ infesting the pubis, in order to discover if they were not a different species of the same genus; when you was compleatly in for guessing, you might have hazarded an opinion, which I should have thought to the full as rational as that which was the subject of your microscopic enquiries, viz. that those animals being receiv'd from the female in coition, had crawled into the urethra,  
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there voided eggs and laid the foundation of a clap.

From the attention and observation, you have bestowed on the nature of venereal poison, you are of opinion, that the gonorrhæal and pocky matter are not of the same species; the singular disposition of the one you say, of inflaming the whole internal part of the urethra in a short time, without bringing on chancres, and causing a large discharge with scalding and chor-dee, whilst the pocky matter from its ponderosity, or spiculosity, seems only to affect the part where it drops, and if it is not all immediately absorbed, forms itself into a chancre upon the glans penis, præputium, &c. and sometimes on the internal part of the urethra: this is your opinion, which for some reasons I must beg leave to dissent from; and first, that tendency of a gonorrhæa to inflame the urethra, together with scalding and chordee, are effects by no means inseparable from this

this disease, as a gonorrhæa frequently exists without any such marks of inflammation, which circumstance of inflammation is frequently attendant on poxes; witness the severity of phymosis, with chancres excoriating over the whole surface of the glans penis, where no previous running from the urethra had taken place, and from the profuse quantity of the discharge issuing from between the prepuce and glans in such cases, and its similarity to the discharge of those gonorrhæas that have been cured without mercury, is a strong argument of the sameness of their nature, and would induce us to suppose, that many of those claps which have passed off under the denomination of obstinate, have been kept up by an internal chancre; for that chancres have existed in the urethra you yourself are an evidence, tho' you make a conclusion from this circumstance very different from what I have done, without being able to ascertain any thing that may amount to tolerable presumptive proof,



proof, or that is in any degree satisfactory; in short Sir, the notion of a compound case, the consequence of a double infection, is extremely arbitrary and whimsical, and there are no rules laid down by which we can discover, or even guess, when the double taint has been receiv'd; and tho' by what I have been able to observe, they are equally early in their first appearances when they exist separately; yet when they accompany each other, and the different infections are supposed to be coeval, the pox never appears till some time after the running, which favours the opinion of a degeneracy much more than of its arising from a concealed chancre; for your own reasoning acknowledges, that pocky matter only creates chancres where it drops, and as it can only be lodged on the external parts, or at most at the very extremity of the urethra, when immediately receiv'd from coition, so I have no idea of a chancre deep in the urethra, but what owes its existence to

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the acrimony of a gonorrhæa. The chancrous gonorrhæa, which you term the pocky one, and the simple running which you seem to regard merely as an increased secretion, and very distinct from each other, should before we make certain of such a difference, be characterized by symptoms peculiar to each, whereas this is by no means the case; I have seen claps that would yield to nothing but mercury, with the gentle use of that entirely vanish, and others that have been cured without a single grain, leave strictures in the urethra that required the use of the bougie to remove, and probably were produced by the matter having corroded the urinary canal, and by healing irregularly, contracted some parts of the urethra.

You seem to speak with great confidence, of the copulation of two people each infected with one of the different disorders, and of their exchange of diseases; I would be glad to be informed

ed whether this matter has ever been ascertained a priori, for if it has not, no satisfactory conclusion can possibly be drawn from it, and from the nature of the circumstances I may venture to believe, that no such examination has ever been made, and therefore this is an uncandid, and disingenuous argument, and shows how very hard drove the advocates for a double infection are to maintain their ground: if I were to offer a conjecture on this subject, I should say, that the urinary passage being much straighten'd by the erection of the penis, the matter could not find so free a vent to escape; and the heat of the venereal passion increasing the velocity of the circulation, absorption was at that time more likely to be produced, and by that means introduce the matter into the habit, this is surely a more rational conjecture than yours, which I dont find amounts to any thing more than conjecture. Mr. Bayford has related a case, where a pox was contracted from a woman on whom no



pocky symptoms had appeared, and a gonorrhæa from a man who never had any discharge from the urethra; if the diseases really differ essentially from each other, why have we not some decisive marks to guide us to the distinction, how is it that we have remained so long in the dark in an affair, that according to your creed must have been evident to the most common understanding. We likewise differ in another point, respecting your opinion, that if the virus of a gonorrhæa be exposed to any part denuded of its skin, it will not form a chancre, but will heal with any little styptick wash and dry lint, whilst common observation evinces, that the minutest excoriation, touched with the pocky virus will immediately form a chancre. Now with submission, neither of these are strictly true, the matter of a gonorrhæa being diffused on the surface of a glans penis, of an unusual degree of sensibility will form chancres, and likewise create inflammation sufficient to produce a phymosis,



sis, without the assistance of any previous excoriation, as I have lately been a witness of in the case of a gentleman, whose clap was approaching to a cure very expeditiously, who having received rash and ignorant advice, threw aside the necessary cautions and regulations prescribed by his surgeon, before the virulency was sufficiently corrected, which brought on a return of the inflammatory symptoms, with a copious discharge of matter and chancrous excrescences, that would yield to nothing but a mercurial course; and with respect to the pocky matter infallibly converting any slight wound or sore into a chancre, that opinion is entirely overthrown by an accident that not infrequently happens, I mean the effects of dressing venereal sores with cut fingers, the matter is absorbed by the wound, the glands of the axilla become enlarged, and frequently impostumate, while the wound on the finger that receiv'd the infection, has not the least appearance of a chancre, and if at all  
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alter'd is only so by a slight inflammation of very short continuance.

Nothing is more easily refuted than your assertion, that the pocky matter is more susceptible of absorption than the matter of a gonorrhæa, every surgeon who has seen practice knows, that a bubo may be the consequence of a gonorrhæa as well as of a chancre, and that this is most frequently brought about by astringent injections, which sufficiently proves in opposition to your opinion to the contrary, that there are certain medicines that will convert the simple gonorrhæa into a pox, for as there is no fact better establish'd than the frequent appearance of a bubo from the suppression of a gonorrhæa, where no previous chancre or any pocky symptom has existed, so there can be no doubt of the possibility of absorption in the case of a simple clap; that being ascertain'd, it would be the height of absurdity to suppose that the matter, which had been conveyed  
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with so much facility to the inguen would stop there as being incapable of passing on to the circulation, nor is there any reason that can possibly be urged why it should.

When you attempt to furnish us with reasons for the frequent appearance of a bubo subsequent to a chancre, you strike at the root of your own doctrine by allowing, that whatever throws the body into a more absorbent, and weakly state, is the readiest means of producing buboes; is not the first the constant effect of an increased velocity of the circulation, and it is very certain that all febrile heat is attended with a degree of languor and weakness; and is it not the known property of your drops, nay even by your own confession, to create fever and uneasiness, and in some cases sufficient to produce eruption and every appearance of a true scarlet fever; had your bitterest enemy racked his invention for an argument subversive of your mode



mode of practice, he could not have found one more powerful than that you yourself have furnish'd.

The very first step you take in your curative intention, cannot fail of giving unfavourable impressions of your principal dependance the drops; you tell us, that the preparation of purging and phlebotomy, is frequently necessary to prevent those painful head ach's that the medicine would otherwise occasion, this is not only a strong proof of its violent and inflammatory tendency, but likewise of the necessity of frequent purging during its use, whenever the vessels should recover their wonted fullness, and frequent purging is universally allowed to be no part of the proper treatment of the gonorrhœa, and is not a point contended for even by yourself. But as I proceed farther on, I find your regulation of diet to be so very strict and severe, excluding every thing that has the least tendency to inflame, that such a regimen I should



should think would unassisted produce those good effects, which you may perhaps fondly attribute to the operation of the drops, for the power of an abstemious regimen is no where more strongly proved than in the management of claps; every experienced man can bear testimony, that those who pay a proper observance to this article shall sometimes owe to that their perfect cure, and at worst it never fails of alleviating those symptoms, which nothing less than the powerful operation of mercury will totally eradicate. It must surely be matter of surprize, to find you admitting of the use of wine, when that is known to have so direct a tendency to bring on as well as to keep up the chordee, while the only thing that is found to subdue this stubborn symptom, is not so much as made mention of; the powers of opium which is here a specific, and if given in quantities sufficiently large has a most prevailing effect, is entirely ba-

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nish'd from Mr. E—'s most efficacious plan for subduing the inflammatory stage of the disease in the space of *a few hours*: I should dwell perhaps some time longer on this very *new* doctrine, if the proposition expressed in the lines immediately following did not call for notice, and demand my serious attention: if there is any merit in a discovery never yet touched upon by practitioners or writers, it is certainly due to you. If I were to offer a conjecture concerning the reason of your broaching a doctrine, the extravagance and singularity of which may excite some surprize in me, without any danger of being in that respect thought singular myself, I should say, that it could proceed from nothing but ignorance in the extreme on your side, or a supposed silly credulity on ours; for nothing less than one of these I think could tempt any man to affirm, that all claps however differently circumstanced, are the same with regard to  
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the treatment, the meer mention of an assertion so outrageously absurd would be sufficient to render my veracity suspected; to secure myself from that imputation I must here produce your own words, thus do you express yourself: \* it is of trifling consequence, whether the patient has a very little running or scalding, or the gonorrhæa affects only a small way down the urethra, or it hath even reach'd the ducts of the prostate gland, with scalding, chordee, and all the virulent symptoms of the disease: bravo this, but if one is to strive for belief against reason and probability, let us assert boldly and we certainly have the best chance; or do you really believe this yourself, if so, a moments reflection

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\* I believe this will be allowed to be a very extraordinary position, but how can we be surprized at any thing that falls from the pen of such a genius as this, who has discover'd the urethra to be the seat of lacteals. See E—, page 5.

might surely have convinced you, that such a declaration could be entitled to nothing but the most contemptuous reception; for to what does it amount, but that a mild clap and a severe one are misfortunes of an equal degree of importance; an assertion that will neither bear the test of observation, argument, or experience; is it not an invariable maxim, that the nearer the disease approaches to those organs that are appropriated to the immediate preservation of the animal, or any of its peculiarly useful parts, is in the same degree dangerous; the larger likewise the surface, the larger will be the quantity of the discharge, which must inevitably weaken the patient, the bad consequences of which I may suppose you to be sufficiently aware of, when you recommend a free use of a plain diet in order to keep up the strength and support the constitution: I am utterly at a loss to think, what could induce you to start a thought of this kind,



kind, which is not only contradictory to every hitherto receiv'd opinion, but clashes even with your own reasoning; for in the former part of your book, you have made an express distinction yourself by saying, you have known the most *virulent* gonorrhæa's cured without a grain of mercury, if they are the same in effect, why particularize the virulent, which according to your account, is as incapable of resisting the efficacy of your drops as the mildest gonorrhæa. I would ask you, whether those claps that penetrate deeply into the urinary passage, are not always the most severe in their effects, and whether a disorder with severity of symptoms, is equally tractable and speedy in cure, with those of a milder nature, and of less extent; but criticism is entirely thrown away on a point so notoriously false, and which the experience of all times has sufficiently contradicted. Your method of cure as it consists of a very few articles, does  
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not afford a very extensive field for critical disquisition. The balsam copaiv. mixed with spir. lav. compos. as an internal medicine, with the assistance of a vitriolic injection, or a substituted one of ærug. æris with spirit of sal. ammoniac or oil, constitutes your whole plan of treatment, and is recommended as an infallible cure, and to be administered indiscriminately, without any attention to circumstances, variety of symptoms or distinction of any kind; and this is the whole and sole business of the pamphlet, and which might have been comprized in one page just as well as in forty. I am now to inform you Sir, that this medicine which you are pleased to call a *new* one, is of ancient date, and has been given many years back in claps join'd with gum arabic, but doubtless rejected for very good reasons; it has a constant tendency to affect the head, stomach, and bowels in a very powerful manner, which is making the remedy worse than

than the disease, and its properties are to heat and inflame, which is contrary to every indication of cure in that disease which is the subject of your publication, which disease constantly varies according to the date, degree of infection, and temperament of the patient, which is a proof that no remedy that can be offer'd, however powerful in some particular cases, that can be so in all, and therefore how wild and romantic to make an indiscriminate use of any one thing whatever. And now admitting for the sake of argument the propriety of your method, what are its advantages over that in common use, you have been complained to by many of the faculty, that it is frequently incapable of extirpating the disease and preventing a return, an insufficiency which you attribute to the too early disuse of the medicine; and to prevent any failure of that kind, you prescribe a perseverance of almost a month, which is about  
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the usual time of cure by those who are in the old practice of the antiphlogistic remedies, and on their failure, a gentle use of mercury, and thus do you finish the account of your method of curing the meer running of the urethra, which is a circumstance of the least importance of the whole train of symptoms frequently attendant on claps in spite of the most unexceptionable mode of practice, not a single syllable has been mentioned concerning the treatment of chordee; hernia humoralis, the prevention of inflammation and sometimes abscess in perineo, or the imposthumation of the glands of the groin; the only things relative to the gonorrhœa that are really alarming, while the running from the urethra, the cure of which depends chiefly on an observance of a proper regimen, and for which there are fifty local applications of equal efficacy, makes up the whole



whole subject of an enquiry that is pompously styled, *An Essay on a new method of cure for the Venereal Gonorrhæa.*

You complain, that of late the efficacy of injections has become the subject of dispute, without the support of one single practical proof, to strengthen the account of their power of injuring the parts to which they are applied, here you certainly complain without a sufficient cause, if you will give yourself the trouble of looking into the first edition of your own pamphlet, you will there find a case strictly in point; I mean that very formidable one, of the person who had a suppression of urine, with a gangrene and sloughing away of the whole scrotum, together with many other dreadful particulars, the comfortable consequences of your *new* method of cure;

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your

your memory must surely be uncommonly treacherous when you suppose, that if injections were at all injurious to the parts of generation; you who have been so long in the practice of injecting would have discover'd it, does not the above-mentioned case amount to a discovery, or are they so common with you that you have found it necessary to attribute them to some other cause; of this I can inform you, that the situation of that gentleman who paid so very dearly for his cure, as the sloughing of his scrotum, and denudation of his testicles, has not at all contributed to enforce that conviction of the happy consequences of the free use of injections, which according to you all those who have attended to their effects have receiv'd.

If a gonorrhæa should be compounded with a pox you cure them  
as

as two different diseases, that is, you accompany the drops with a sufficient quantity of mercury to suppress both together, in this I have the pleasure to inform you you are no means singular I believe every person will allow, that a free use of mercury in an advanced stage of the disease becomes absolutely necessary, and with proper regulations, will never fail to subdue every venereal appearance, without any assistance from the balsam copaiba: by this you will observe that I do not preponderate with you in opinion, concerning the distinction of the diseases; admitting of no difference but in degree, and for this I have the sanction of my own experience, and a very extensive practice in venereal cases, as well as the opinions of some of the first characters in physic and surgery, in my favour. If you think it ne-

cessary to dwell on this point the next time your pamphlet receives farther additions, there are some circumstances that I wish you to take into serious consideration; and in the first place, if mercury is not adapted to the cure of the gonorrhæa, how has it happen'd, that claps which have been of long continuance have frequently disappeared after a salivation; and again, that venereal sores in the throat, nodes, and eruptions, have come on some months after the disappearance of a gonorrhæa, which symptoms on the strictest enquiry could not be traced back to any thing but a discharge from the urethra, accompanied with a slight induration of the glands in the groin, without the least chancrous appearance whatever.

Having thus far descanted on your  
opinions,



opinions, it may be expected that I should advance some opinion of my own, such an undertaking would greatly exceed those limits I have prescribed myself on this occasion; nor is it necessary; throughout this performance I have had nothing in view but the refutation of your flimsy futile doctrine, it is not impossible if at some future time I should possess myself of any thing *really new and worthy the attention of my brethren in the Physical line*, that I may be induced to communicate it for the instruction of others, and general benefit of mankind, good practice is sufficiently known and attended to, and to those who wish to be made acquainted with it, I would refer them to that very ingenious book, Chapman's Abridgment of Astruc, from which they may derive every kind of useful information, and where they  
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will have an opportunity of making themselves conversant with the nature and treatment of the venereal disease, on an extensive, liberal, and scientific plan.

A SURGEON.

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E R R A T U M.

Page 6, line 7. for gentleman, read gentlemen.

F I N I S.